NUMB. VII.

The GUARDIAN.

——Properat curſu
Vita citato—— Senec. Trag.

Thurſday, March 19. 1713.

I This Morning did my ſelf the Honour to viſit Lady *Lizard*, and took my Chair at the Tea-Table, at the upper End of which that graceful Woman, with her Daughters about her, appeared to me with greater Dignity than ever any Figure, either of *Venus* attended by the Graces, *Diana* with her Nymphs, or any other Celeſtial who owes her Being to Poetry.

The Diſcourſe we had there, none being preſent but our own Family, conſiſted of private Matters, which tended to the Eſtabliſhment of theſe young Ladies in the World. My Lady, I obſerved, had a Mind to make mention of the Propoſal to Mrs. *Jane*, of which ſhe is very fond, and I as much avoided, as being equally againſt it; but it is by no means proper the young Ladies ſhould obſerve we ever diſſent; therefore I turned the Diſcourſe, by ſaying, It is was time enough to think of marrying a young Lady, who was but Three and Twenty, ten Years hence. The whole Table was alarm'd at the Aſſertion, and the *Sparkler* ſcalded her Fingers, by leaning ſuddenly forward to look in my Face: But my Buſineſs, at preſent, was to make my Court to the Mother; therefore, without regarding the Reſentment in the Looks of the Children, Madam, ſaid I, there is a petulant and haſty manner practiſed in this Age, in hurrying away the Life of Woman, and confining the Grace and principal Action of it to thoſe Years wherein Reaſon and Diſcretion are moſt feeble, Humour and Paſſion moſt powerful. From the time a young Woman of Quality has firſt appeared in the Drawing Room, raiſed a Whiſper and Curioſity of the Men about her, had her Health drank in gay Companies, and diſtinguiſhed at publick Aſſemblies: I ſay, Madam, if within three or four Years of her firſt Appearance in Town, ſhe is not diſpoſed of, her Beauty is grown familiar, her Eyes are diſarmed, and we ſeldom after hear her mentioned but with Indifference. What doubles my Grief on this Occaſion is, that the more diſcreetly the Lady behaves her ſelf, the ſooner is her Glory extinguiſhed. Now, Madam, if Merit had a greater weight in our Thoughts, when we form to our ſelves agreeable Characters of Women, Men would think, in making their Choices, of ſuch as would take Care of, as well as ſupply Children for, the Nurſery. It was not thus in the illuſtrious Days of Good Queen *Elizabeth*. I was this Morning turning over a Folio, called *The Compleat Ambaſſador*, conſiſting chiefly of Letters from Lord *Burleigh*, Earl of *Leiceſter*, and Sir *Thomas Smith*. Sir *Thomas* writes a Letter to Sir *Francis Walſingham*, full of learned Gallantry, wherein you may obſerve he promiſes himſelf the *French* King's Brother (who it ſeems was but a cold Lover) would be quickened by ſeeing the Queen in Perſon, who was then in the thirty ninth Year of her Age. A certain Sobriety in Thoughts, Words and Actions, which was the Praiſe of that Age, kept the Fire of Love alive; and it burnt ſo equally, that it warmed and preſerved, without tormenting and conſuming our Beings. The Letter I mentioned is as follows.

To the Right Worſhipful Mr. Francis Walſingham, *Ambaſſador, Reſident in* France.

SIR,

'I AM ſorry that ſo good a matter ſhould, upon 'ſo nice a Point, be deferred. We may ſay 'that the Lover will do little, if he will not take 'the Pains once to ſee his Love; but ſhe muſt firſt 'ſay Yea, before he ſee her, or ſhe him: Twenty 'Ways might be deviſed why he might come over, 'and be welcome, and poſſibly do more in an Hour 'than he may in two Years. *Cupido ille qui vincit 'omnia, in oculos inſidet, & ex oculis ejaculatur, & 'in oculos utriuſque videndo non ſolum, ut ait poeta, 'Fœmina virum, ſed vir fœminam*; That power-'ful Being *Cupid*, who conquers all things, reſides 'in the Eyes, he ſends out all his Darts from the 'Eyes: By throwing Glances at the Eyes, (according 'to the Poet) Not only the Woman captivates the 'Man, but alſo the Man the Woman. What Force, 'I pray you, can Hearſay, and I think, and I truſt, 'do in Compariſon of that, *cum præſens præſentem 'tuetur & alloquitur, & furore forſitan amoris ductus 'amplectitur*, when they Face to Face ſee and con-'verſe with each other, and the Lover in an Exſtaſie, 'not to be commanded, ſnatches an Embrace, and 'ſaith to himſelf, and openly that ſhe may hear, *Teneone 'te mea, an etiamnum ſomno volunt fœminæ videri 'cogi ad id quod maximum cupiunt*? Are you in my

'Arms,

(Price Two Pence.)